



BHEW Bulletin

July 2011

Drunk Driving in Missouri...

Young drivers are more likely to die in an alcohol-impaired crash than older drivers with the same blood alcohol content (BAC).¹

There were 234 fatal alcohol involved crashes in Missouri in 2009, resulting in a total of 265 people killed. This number has been relatively steady for the last 5 years.

There were 142 fatal crashes involving a driver under the age of 21 in 2009, resulting in a total of 160 people killed. It is unknown as to how many of these were part of the fatal alcohol involved crashes mentioned above. This number has been dropping in the last 5 years.²

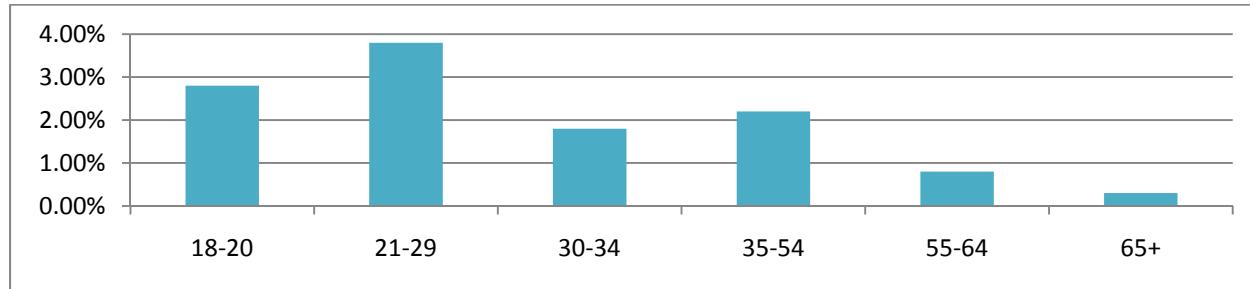
In 2009, there were 33,020 arrests made in Missouri for driving under the influence. 409 of these were under the age of 18. When adjusted by the population of the state, this is above the national average.³ However, caution should be used in interpreting this as it is impossible to know if the larger number indicates more people driving under the influence or simply better enforcement leading to catching those who do break the law.

In the last month, over one fifth (22.3%) of Missouri youth (6th – 12th grade) report having ridden in a vehicle driven by somebody who had been drinking. 9.3% of youth did so on multiple occasions.⁴

15.6% of Missouri youth (6th – 12th grade) report drinking and driving in the last month. 6.3% of youths did so on multiple occasions. Youth who also report binge drinking are more likely to also report drinking and driving – 22.8% did so in the last month.⁴

Young males were more likely than young females to report drinking and driving (18.1% vs. 13.7%).⁴ This pattern is repeated when looking at adult (18+) data; 3.2% of males report driving after drinking compared to only 0.7% of females^{5,6}.

Percentage of Missourians 18 and Older Reporting Driving after Drinking by Age, 2008⁵



¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/alcoholbrief/index.html>

² http://www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/SAC/crash_data_960grid.html

³ http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2009/data/table_69.html

⁴ Missouri Student Survey, 2010, unpublished data

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 1999–2009

⁶ NOTE –the percentages of youths and adults reported in this section should not be directly compared. They are obtained from different data sources and differences in methodology do effect the results.